

FEDERALISM AT RISK

A NATIONAL INQUIRY AND DIALOGUE ON THE STATUS OF STATE AND LOCAL TAX SYSTEMS AND THE FUTURE OF FEDERALISM



CALL FOR PAPERS ON THE PROPERTY TAX

As part of its Federalism at Risk series, the Multistate Tax Commission seeks papers on the role of the property tax in the federalist system.

The Multistate Tax Commission is conducting a national inquiry and dialogue on the status of state and local tax systems and the future of federalism. Sessions have been held on business activity taxes, sales and use taxes, other taxes, and administrative issues. A Review and Policy Options session will be held on August 1, 2002, as part of our annual meeting program in Madison, Wisconsin.

Property Taxes in the Federalist System

In order to consider a complete picture of state and local tax systems as part of Federalism at Risk, the Multistate Tax Commission invites written contributions on the role of the property tax in the federalist system and the state of the property tax in the current political and economic climate. While suggestions of already published materials are welcomed, we are especially interested in original material and commentary. The accompanying outline suggests topics for submittals; however, suggestions for other topics are encouraged. Selected materials may be included in the Multistate Tax Commission Review and will be summarized in the Report of Proceedings of Federalism at Risk.

Dates for Submittal of Property Tax Materials:

July 15, 2002 Submittal of Abstract
October 1, 2002 Selected Papers

An honorarium will be paid for each selected original paper.

Abstracts should be submitted to:
Multistate Tax Commission
Attention Ken Beier
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 425
Washington DC 20001
Or email to KBEIER@MTC.GOV
Questions? Contact: Ken Beier 202.508.3873



OUTLINE

- I. The Property Tax in the Federalist System
 - A. History of the Property Tax
 - B. Current Status of the Property Tax
 - C. The Role of the Property Tax in Support of State and Local Services (economic and political perspective)
- II. The Property Tax in Today's Economic and Political Climate
 - A. Tax Revolts and the Erosion of the Property Tax
 - 1. California—Proposition 13 and its Legacy
 - 2. Massachusetts—Proposition 2 ½ and Property Tax Reform
 - 3. The Challenge of Financing Schools with Local Taxes
 - a. MI and MN Experiences with State Funding
 - b. NH Efforts to Find a State Source of Funding
 - B. Improving the Property Tax
 - 1. What is the Ideal Property Tax? (Policy Considerations and Goals)
 - 2. The Eroding Tax Base: Exemptions, TIFS and Preferential Taxation
 - 3. Strengthening Administration
 - 4. New Challenges—Deregulation, Technology and Other Changes to the Tax Base (Including consideration of unit valuation and central assessment.)
 - 5. Educating Taxpayers and Policymakers